

contributions to the reduction of unemployment. Indeed, the role of private enterprise is indispensable. Nevertheless, unemployment in cities, and in rural areas from which many of the urban jobless come, cannot be solved fast enough by private employment alone. Only with a major program of public service employment can jobs in sufficient volume be produced with the speed which the urban crisis demands.

The Emergency Convocation of last August called for the creation of one million public jobs at the earliest possible moment. On March 11, 1968 the Executive Committee of The Urban Coalition reaffirmed this objective. The statement of the Executive Committee and a list of its members is appended to my statement.

What are the principles that should govern an emergency public service employment program?

First, the Federal Government must enlist the cooperation of government at all levels and of private industry to assure that meaningful, productive work is available to everyone willing and able to work. I have already outlined how the National Alliance of Businessmen and The Urban Coalition are working toward this objective. The various Federal manpower programs are carried out by structures which have heavy involvement of state and local government. In a similar manner, emergency jobs should utilize the strengths of our Federal system so that much of the responsibility for solving the national employment program will actually be given to local communities, where the unemployed reside and will work.

To create socially useful jobs, an emergency public service program should concentrate on the huge backlog of employment needs in parks, streets, slums, countryside, schools, colleges, libraries and hospitals. Two years ago the National Commission on Technology, Automation and Economic Progress indicated that there is need for at least 5.3 million such jobs, and this finding has never been contradicted. I know personally from my experience with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare that one of the grave problems in these fields is the shortage of personnel, not merely professional workers but also personnel in the subprofessional ranks which could be filled by many who are now unemployed or underemployed.

To find out how many socially useful jobs could be made available immediately, The Urban Coalition asked Dr. Harold Sheppard of the Upjohn Institute to survey a sample of major cities. Based upon a preliminary analysis of this survey, Dr. Sheppard has concluded that at least 141,000 persons could be employed almost overnight in the 130 cities with population over 100,000. These would be jobs in regular city departments where supervisors are already available and work tasks are clearly defined. If this sample were expanded to small cities, to county and state governments, and to jobs with private, nonprofit organizations, it is likely that enough jobs could be found to put 500,000 persons to work within six months. By further planning, the number might be expanded to a million or more within a year.

A public service employment program would not only enable unemployed to earn their own way, it would benefit the general public by the many necessary and useful tasks which would be performed.

It goes without saying that a public service employment program must provide meaningful jobs—not dead end, make-work projects. The employment experience should add to the capabilities and broaden the opportunities of the employees to become productive members of the permanent work force. To place hardcore unemployed in meaningless activities with no future would merely reaffirm their hopelessness and despair. What's more, there is little excuse for a re-

sort to meaningless activities. There is a great deal of meaningful work to be done.

In Dr. Sheppard's survey the greatest number of jobs which could be filled immediately by unskilled and semi-skilled persons were in education, followed by police and fire protection, health and hospitals, social welfare, and parks and recreation. All of these fields of public service will have a continued demand for personnel, and all of them have the type of jobs which provide opportunity for advancement from entry level to higher-skill and higher-paying jobs.

Basic education, training, and counseling must, of course, be an integral part of any public service employment program.

Building training into a public service employment program is essential if persons so employed are to be given the opportunity to advance, either to higher-skilled and better paying jobs with public agencies or to jobs in the private sector. Therefore, it is not enough to authorize only enough funds to pay wages. Instead, the cost of training and counseling should be included in the public service program, especially since other training funds are already fully committed.

In many instances, it might be desirable to contract with private, profit-making firms to carry out the training and education. The program should be so designed that this option is available.

A public service employment program should seek to qualify new employees to become part of the regular work force and to meet normal performance standards. This program could have the effect of creating a sizable manpower pool of persons who by actual performance are demonstrating their willingness to work and their capability to perform various work tasks. A man who is working as an auto mechanic for a public works department could move to a job in a private garage. The demand for landscapers is expanding, particularly in suburban areas, so that a person working for a beautification project could put his new skills to work for a private employer. Dozens of occupations are interchangeable between the public and private sector, such as typists, welders, truck drivers, cooks, draftsmen, painters, and many more. The so-called "new careers"—teachers aides, nurses aides, laboratory assistants, and others—offer the potential for entry at an elementary skill level with opportunity for advancement. Given proper training, participants in public service employment programs could gain access to a wide variety of other job opportunities.

Funds for public service employment should be made available to local and state governments, nonprofit institutions, and Federal agencies able to demonstrate their ability to use labor productively. This must be done without reducing existing levels of employment or undercutting existing labor standards or wages which prevail for comparable work or services in the area. Consistent with this principle, a state or local government should be able to contract with a private firm hiring the hardcore unemployed to perform public services. This, after all, is a common pattern for public works activities.

We often hear recommendations that the Federal Government should be "the employer of last resort." With our existing tax structure, Federal funds should be the major source of financial support for public service employment, but the actual employer should be state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private firms under contract.

The establishment of a minimum wage is important so that persons working in public service employment will be able to support their families.

The operation of the program should be keyed to specific, localized unemployment problems and focused initially on those areas where the need is most apparent. This means that the program should have considerable

flexibility, encouraging local initiative and easy adaptability to varied communities. In a city with a tight labor market and many unfilled industrial jobs, a public service employment program might concentrate upon those occupations where workers could gain the experience which would rapidly qualify them for those existing jobs. In a locale with higher rates of unemployment, public service employment might have to be longer term. Another city might want to give particular attention to improving the bad housing and wretched environmental conditions which plague the poor. There should be no single, made-in-Washington pattern.

As our name implies, we are concerned especially with the needs of urban areas. It is plain to all thinking Americans that the urban crisis comes to focus particularly in the ghettos. This has been made all the more clear to us by the recent, excellent report of the President's Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. The Executive Committee of the Urban Coalition has strongly endorsed this report and has commended it to the nation's citizens and leaders for study and action. Since you are all familiar with the report, I will quote only one passage:

"What white Americans have never fully understood—but what the Negro can never forget—is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

It is now urgent that the Government of all the people of the United States do something about it. As the Advisory Commission recommended, employment should be at the top of the agenda.

That is not to say that a public service employment program would be for Negroes alone. Many persons with Spanish surnames suffer unemployment. And in all national statistics the majority of the unemployed are white.

Nor should a public service employment program be only for urban areas. Although the greatest concentration of unemployment and the most explosive situations are found in urban ghettos, the highest proportion of unemployment among residents of a community are found in rural areas. If persons cannot find work in South Carolina, they move to Washington, Philadelphia, or New York.

Those unemployed in Eastern Kentucky head for Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Detroit. Those without jobs in the Mississippi Delta migrate to Chicago. The jobless in the Rio Grande Valley move to Texas or California cities. Indeed, the cities and the rural areas alike will benefit if a public service employment program is both urban and rural.

As I have studied H.R. 12280—"The Guaranteed Employment Act", I find that in most respects it is in basic accord with the principles I have described. There are, however, three aspects that might be strengthened.

First, the authorization of up to one million jobs at any one time is to be applauded, for this volume more nearly meets the need than most of the other employment bills pending before Congress. The authorization in section 14 for education and training as part of the program is also commendable, for this will enable working in public service employment to gain the skills they need to advance to better paying and more permanent jobs. However, proper education and training programs will require additional resources. Therefore, it may be necessary to increase authorization of funds to \$5 billion in order to pay an adequate wage for work as well as the cost of supplementary training and education.

Second, as much use as possible should be made of job opportunities with private employers. As you know, major efforts are underway to increase the participation of the private sector in employment programs for the unemployed poor. It seems clear that some

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type of an incentive is necessary and that additional Federal funds are needed for this purpose. This might be done by adding another section and a higher authorization to H.R. 12280, by putting more funds into MDTA, or by augmenting the program authorized by Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1967 which provide for "reimbursement to employers for a limited period when an employee might not be fully productive" [Sec. 123(a)(8)].

Third, there is a need to assure that a public service employment program is adequately tied to other manpower programs sponsored by the Federal government. Coordination in Washington is essential but even more important is coordination at the local level, where the unemployed live and work. An unemployed poor person may need a sequence of services ranging from recruitment through training to job placement. Public service employment could be a waystation on the road to private sector employment for most. This means that a public service employment program should be linked to other manpower and employment programs. One way to accomplish this goal is to channel Federal funds through a local prime sponsor, which in delegating operating responsibility to other agencies can assure that adequate linkages exist between the various program components. While the Secretary of Labor needs some flexibility in funding independent contractors, it would be desirable to direct most of the public service employment funds through the same prime sponsor that is handling manpower programs under the Economic Opportunity Act.

In conclusion, I reiterate the plea of the Emergency Convocation held last August which called upon "all Americans to apply the same determination to these programs that they have to past emergencies. We are confident that, given this commitment, our society has the ingenuity to allocate its resources and devise techniques necessary to rebuild cities and still meet our other national obligations without impairing our financial integrity. Out of past emergencies, we have drawn strength and progress. Out of the present urban crisis we can build cities that are places, not of disorder and despair, but of hope and opportunity. The task we set for ourselves will not be easy, but the needs are massive and urgent, and the hour is late. We pledge ourselves to this goal for as long as it takes to accomplish it. We ask the help of the Congress and the Nation."

**STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE URBAN COALITION ON PUBLIC SERVICE
EMPLOYMENT**

The Urban Coalition Executive Committee calls upon the Congress to enact urgently needed emergency legislation to provide at least one million jobs through public service employment.

In support of this objective, The Urban Coalition's Statement of Principles, Goals, and Commitments, endorsed in August, 1967 by 1,000 representatives of business, labor, religion, civil rights, and local government, calls for action consistent with the following principles:

The federal government must enlist the cooperation of government at all levels and of private industry to assure that meaningful, productive work is available to everyone willing and able to work.

To create socially useful jobs, the emergency work program should concentrate on the huge backlog of employment needs in parks, streets, slums, countryside, schools, colleges, libraries, and hospitals. To this end, an emergency work program should be initiated and should have as its first goal putting at least one million of the presently unemployed into productive work at the earliest possible moment.

The program must provide meaningful jobs—not dead-end, make work projects—so that the employment experience gained adds to the capabilities and broadens the opportunities of the employees to become productive members of the permanent work force of our nation.

Basic education, training, and counseling must be an integral part of the program to assure extended opportunities for upward job mobility and to improve employee productivity. Funds for training, education, and counseling should be made available to private industry as well as to public and private nonprofit agencies.

Funds for employment should be made available to local and state governments, nonprofit institutions, and federal agencies able to demonstrate their ability to use labor productively without reducing existing levels of employment or undercutting existing labor standards or wages which prevail for comparable work or services in the area but are not less than the federal minimum wage.

Such a program should seek to qualify new employees to become part of the regular work force and to meet normal performance standards.

The operation of the program should be keyed to specific, localized unemployment problems and focused initially on those areas where the need is most apparent.

The Clark-Javits Emergency Employment Act proposed in the last session of Congress was responsive to these principles and was endorsed by The Urban Coalition. It is now even more urgent for the Congress to respond to the conditions of unemployment despair revealed in hearings held by the Senate Subcommittee on Unemployment. The principles endorsed by The Urban Coalition are consistent with findings and recommendations of the National Committee on Technology Automation and Economic Progress (Feb. 1966), the White House Conference to Fulfill These Rights (June, 1966), and The National Advisory Commission on Food and Fiber (July, 1967). The Report of the President's Commission on Civil Disorders leaves no doubt as to the nation's responsibilities.

**POSTAL AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEE
BENEFITS**

HON. EDNA F. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 9, 1968

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues three bills I have introduced. H.R. 17123, amends the Civil Service Retirement Act to authorize the retirement of employees after 20 years of service without reduction in annuity. H.R. 17124, amends the Civil Service Retirement Act to provide increased annuities. H.R. 17125, will modernize certain provisions of the Civil Service Retirement Act. I feel these bills merit immediate consideration and enactment by this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. civil service retirement program, which once was adequate, has fallen into serious disrepair. It is no longer comparable to programs that exist throughout the private sector. Somehow, we are always postponing action to help our retirees and their survivors. We in the Congress I feel do have the best of intentions, but something seems always to come up

which appears to have more urgency and we keep delaying the provision of simple justice for those who have dedicated their lives to their Government and to the people of America. The time has come when we cannot in all decency delay any longer. We have an obligation to act. The enactment of my bills which I introduced yesterday would do a great deal toward alleviating the conditions of actual hardship which prevail among our retired postal and Federal workers.

We have an official poverty line here in the United States. It has been set at \$3,000. The great majority of retired postal workers and most Federal workers, receive less than \$3,000 a year in annuities. The picture in regard to survivors is even more appalling: 90 percent of the survivor annuitants receive less than \$100 a month. These are the widows and children, mostly, and they are being shamefully treated.

It is obvious that a 4-percent increase in annuity is not going to do very much for a man who is receiving retirement pay of only \$2,500 a year. Under the present system those who are receiving the least, and who need the most help, are getting the smallest increase, and vice versa.

To correct this situation I have introduced H.R. 17124, which would grant a 10-percent increase on the first \$1,000 of an annuity; a 9-percent increase on the second \$1,000; an 8-percent increase on the third \$1,000, and so on up to 1 percent on the 10th \$1,000. This will put the most money where the need is most desperate.

Second, I have introduced H.R. 17125, a bill which would do several things to improve the lot of the retired Government worker and his survivors. It would, for example, permit the inclusion of premium and overtime pay in the computation of annuities. It would liberalize the computation formula itself in that, once an employee has completed 10 years of service, the computation of his annuity will be based on 2 percent for each year he has served. It would increase the pitifully low benefits for surviving children by \$120 a year. It would allow the surviving spouse 60 percent of the annuity of her husband, instead of the present 55 percent. It would make it less expensive for a retired Government worker to provide for those whom he will eventually leave behind him, permitting deductions of 2½ percent on the first \$4,800 of earned annuity—instead of \$3,600 as of now, and 10 percent on everything above that. It would also improve the cost-of-living formula in the present retirement program. Instead of basing the automatic increase on a 3-percent increase in the Consumer Price Index sustained over 3 months, it would be based on a 2-percent increase after 2 months. When people are living on the edge of poverty, as so many of our retirees and their survivors are living now, every percentage point which the CPI rises is a serious matter. We should not make these people wait before we permit them to catch up with the cost of living.

Third, I have introduced H.R. 17123, which would permit postal and Federal

employees to retire with full annuity after 20 years of service at the age of 50. We recently voted for a bill which would permit the military and the people in the Foreign Service to retire at 50 after 20 years of service. I see no reason why we should not permit this liberalized formula to pertain to all Federal employees, and not just a favored few.

I might say that this is no new and revolutionary idea. The National Association of Letter Carriers—an organization of which I have considerable firsthand knowledge—asked for 20-year retirement at their founding convention in Milwaukee in 1889. After 79 years, Mr. Speaker, I feel we should feel ready to match the progressive thinking of those pioneer trade unionists.

I feel that these three bills will modernize our present antiquated and inadequate civil service retirement program.

I feel also that they will redress some of the wrongs which, through inattentiveness and carelessness, we have visited upon men and women who deserve our best consideration and tenderness.

Mr. Speaker, I feel we should take action on this liberalizing program as soon as possible.

WORLD TRAVELER JOINS WOMEN DOERS AT LUNCHEON

HON. PHILIP E. RUPPE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1968

Mr. RUPPE. Mr. Speaker, recently Mrs. Marion Vaughan, of Bessemer, Mich., was the guest of Lady Bird Johnson at the First Lady's White House "doers luncheon." How did it happen that Mrs. Vaughan, of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, was invited to be a key participant in an important White House conference?

The Upper Peninsula is a beautiful area that attracts many thousands of tourists every year. Gogebic County, where Bessemer is located, is an especially lovely corner of the peninsula. Within the Ottawa National Forest, near Bessemer, is a tract of land known as Sylvania. It comprises 29 square miles of exceptionally beautiful woods and lakes in near-virgin condition. The Nation's First Lady visited Sylvania last fall and dedicated it into the national forest. Mrs. Johnson later sent me a photograph of her dedication speech on which she inscribed, "To Congressman RUPPE—on an interesting visit to dedicate magnificent Sylvania." Indeed, "magnificent" is the only way to describe Sylvania.

While visiting Sylvania Mrs. Johnson apparently became aware of Mrs. Marion Vaughan's drive to locate flower boxes throughout Bessemer. The drive was a successful one, and Mrs. Vaughan was invited to the White House. The Washington Post carried an article on the "doers luncheon", including Mrs. Vaughan's contribution. The article follows:

WORLD TRAVELER JOINS WOMEN DOERS AT LUNCHEON

(By Meryle Secrest)

President Lyndon B. Johnson dropped in on 50 women at lunch yesterday to plug travel in the U.S. and discourage travel overseas which he said, is increasing "in spite of all we can do."

His audience were all experts on the subject of attracting tourists to their hometowns. They came from around the U.S. to attend Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson's Women Doers luncheon at the White House, which was on the theme of "Rediscovering America."

They also talked about some of the ways they have done it: from sparking a rash of window boxes to rebuilding an opera house, setting up centers for foreign visitors and restoring neglected old hotels.

Wearing a gray suit and a black string tie, President Johnson gave his wife a kiss and joked that one way to getting to see her was to catch her at such functions.

"There's something about the White House that makes its First Ladies like to travel," he said to amusement.

The President continued: "It would be so good and helpful if all of us would look at this continent and forego for the moment any substantial expenditures that adversely affect us."

He urged them to see America, "Because when you see all the beautiful things, you are also going to see some things that need to be done. And when you women see things like that, you do something about them."

Mrs. Johnson pointed out earlier that foreign travel to the U.S. had gone up by leaps and bounds since the "Visit USA" program was launched in 1961. In the last three years, the number of visitors had jumped to 1,200,000—an increase of 46 percent, she said.

She urged the establishment of more visitors centers, and more Americans should open their homes to foreigners, and that we should "marshal our language resources, so that the foreigner will not feel lost due to a language barrier."

It's easy for the foreigner to come to America and see only the highways and the big cities, she continued.

But the feeling of having been there would come when visitors could see the charming old towns, the national parks, and the wilderness; what she called "the not-so-well-trodden paths."

For every local asset that has been exploited, there are a dozen others waiting for creative action, said Frances Koltun, travel editor of Mademoiselle magazine, who was another speaker at the lunch.

Pointing out that tourism today was big business, she suggested that distinctive buildings, folklore, natural wonders and local festivals were the raw materials from which tourist attractions were made.

She also pointed out "travel helps overcome the dislike of the unlike," adding that we find it much harder to be prejudiced about people we know.

She said that women in other countries hold the family's travel pursestrings and that American women must find the ways to tell more women from overseas about the U.S.

The wife of the new Chief of Protocol, Mrs. Angier Biddle Duke, who has recently returned from Spain, said that the budget-minded Europeans need packaged tours planned around themes. If travel in the U.S. could be made financially attractive, she thought that many middle-class Europeans, who now consider it too expensive, would come here.

She also suggested that Americans publicize their great New York, Chicago and San Francisco galleries and art museums; that they tell European women about historic preservation at Colonial Williamsburg and

Winterthur and that many Europeans would like a capsule introduction to the West by way of a dude ranch, for instance.

Members of the audience added a few "how to" tips from their own experience. They included:

Mrs. William S. Terry of Jefferson, Tex., who told how a group of civic-minded women had managed to restore 47 old houses in this old steamboat town on Caddo Lake. Their biggest project, she said, was Excelsior House, which has been in continuous operation as a hotel since the 1850s. It was restored and is run entirely by volunteer help, "and we think our greatest achievement is that the 35 women who did it are still on speaking terms."

Mrs. W. F. Low, supervisor of hostess training at Colonial Williamsburg, has conducted countless VIPs through the restored area, including six kinds and many government heads. She makes a point of showing foreigners things that will particularly interest them, i.e., for the Dutch, the collection of Delft china and the Flemish paintings.

She also said: "I also try to emphasize the ideas we have in common. For instance, we didn't invent the ideas of freedom . . . There are many Czech documents, for instance, which have contributed to our own Bill of Rights."

Marion Vaughn, who works in a photographers' studio in Bessemer, Mich. told about the city's beautification program and the 250 flower boxes that local merchants put up as a result.

"Does it help tourism? I should say so," she said emphatically. "Women love flowers and they'll drive out of their way to come and see our town."

Margaret Wilson, president of Scarbrough's Department Store in Austin, Tex., also agreed that beautification was good business. Mrs. Wilson said that her store had put up trees along the main street and was encouraging others to do the same.

JUNIOR KING'S "10 COMMANDMENTS"

HON. JOHN R. RARICK

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1968

Mr. RARICK. Mr. Speaker, while some communications establishments scream "freedom of press and speech" they continue to abuse the prohibition by "book burning and truth distortion."

For certain they do not literally burn books or lie outright—their guilt is in rewriting the text by deleting what they desire to keep from the public—just not telling the whole truth.

A perfect example of such censored reporting was the coverage of the disloyal Americans propaganda meeting for the pro-Vietcong in New York City, April 27, 1968.

According to the news account, Junior King's widow, speaking to the admitted allies of the murderers of over 22,000 American boys in South Vietnam, read the 10 commandments prepared by her late husband.

[From the Washington (D.C.) Sunday Star, Apr. 28, 1968]

LOYALTY, PEACE PARADES STAGED

In New York City, thousands of persons marched to a Central Park "stop the war" rally to hear speakers, including Mrs. Mar-

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tin Luther King Jr. Sponsors of the antiwar rally said 100,000 to 150,000 attended; newsmen estimated the crowd in Sheep Meadow at 40,000.

Mrs. King spoke to the crowd from what she said were notes prepared by her late husband, who had been scheduled to address the rally.

She read "Ten Commandments on Vietnam" which she said her husband wrote. They included: "Thou shalt not believe in a military victory, Thou shalt not believe in a political victory, Thou shalt not kill."

The story mentions 10 commandments, yet only three are reported in the news story. What happened to the other seven?

Here are the full 10, taken from the Communist Daily Worker for April 26, 1968, printed the day before the rally so copies would be available at the shindig.

[From the Daily Worker, Apr. 26, 1968]

TEN COMMANDMENTS

These are the "Ten Commandments on Vietnam" written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. just before his death:

1. Thou shalt not believe in a military victory.
2. Thou shalt not believe in a political victory.
3. Thou shalt not believe that they (the Vietnamese) love us.
4. Thou shalt not believe that the Saigon government has the support of the people.
5. Thou shalt not believe that the majority of the South Vietnamese look upon the Viet Cong as terrorists.
6. Thou shalt not believe the figures of killed enemies or killed Americans.
7. Thou shalt not believe that the generals know best.
8. Thou shalt not believe that the enemies' victory means communism.
9. Thou shalt not believe that the world supports the United States.
10. Thou shalt not kill.

The American people ask "Why?"

Why manipulate and censor news stories? Why do some of the major communications establishments fear the truth?

Who are they to prevent the American people from full factual disclosure of the truth? As censors and book burners, how can they call their product legitimate news or a public service?

The first amendment prohibition against legislation infringing on the freedom of speech and press was not intended to protect a right to lie—nor a constitutional guarantee to a "special interest" minority of a right to censor truth.

More and more Americans are becoming aware of manipulations by the controlled communications people being used to affect public opinion by repetition of half-truths. Continued suppression of the truth can initiate action to insure legislation to protect the public by guarantees of pure and wholesome reporting of the news. How long can the "think minority" feel they can keep control of their little brain-training monopoly?

Not only are they eroding their credibility and usefulness—promoting the destruction of a basic freedom—but they hasten the day when individuals can pursue punitive actions for violation of civil rights, not to be lied to or have their thinking mechanism discriminated against by censorship, intimidation and undue coercion.

YOUR CONGRESSMAN BILL SCOTT REPORTS

HON. WILLIAM LLOYD SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1968

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, since election to the Congress I have issued a monthly newsletter to constituents on congressional activities and our May report to the people of the Eighth District is as follows:

YOUR CONGRESSMAN BILL SCOTT REPORTS FISCAL MATTERS

One of the major problems confronting the country is the fiscal crisis. We're faced with a loss of confidence in the dollar abroad, a continued outflow of gold, an unfavorable balance of trade, a budget deficit that could reach \$25 billion this year unless present spending plans are curtailed or taxes increased, the highest interest rates since the Civil War, and an all-time high in costs of goods and services. Practically all Members of Congress agree there must be a reduction in spending. However, disagreement arises with regard to priorities and when general reduction is changed to the selection of specific items. An example was the recent consideration of a \$13.67 billion appropriation bill for independent government offices and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Efforts to eliminate the rent subsidy portion of this bill were defeated by approximately 2 to 1, and an effort to reduce the amount of appropriation by 5% was also unsuccessful by a more narrow margin. It should be added, however, that the amount budgeted by the President had already been reduced in the Committee by almost \$3 billion.

As you probably know, leaders from both Houses of Congress and from both political parties are meeting in an effort to put a ceiling on spending and to agree on the amount of a tax increase, if any. A majority of the House Ways and Means Committee has tentatively agreed to a surtax, provided there is a \$4 billion decrease in current spending coupled with a hedge against spending in future years and a curtailment in the amount to be spent of funds already appropriated but presently unspent. Many believe this is an insufficient reduction and are holding out for \$6 billion in budget reduction, another \$6 billion in unspent authorizations and \$14 billion in new obligation authority. Sometimes when we hear of the need for increased spending in government we don't realize that the Congress in past years has appropriated funds amounting to \$221 billion which is presently in the pipeline or unspent. The Conference Committee desires to find some way to re-claim a portion of this money. It is certainly encouraging to note that the Members of Congress, from both parties, are at last aware that we cannot continue to go on spending for everything that is advocated. Certainly this is a complex problem which will require careful thought by the best minds in our country.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

A measure passed recently by the House directed the Department of Transportation to study and recommend reforms in the motor vehicle insurance system. This office has received a number of letters expressing concern regarding the cancellation of policies and the study will not only include that factor but the cost of insurance and the time consumed in processing claims. Certainly I would prefer that insurance companies be regulated at the state level but share the concern of many regarding arbitrary cancellation of policies.

ALEXANDRIA POST OFFICE

A constituent wrote that he lived in Fairfax County but was served by the Alexandria Post Office, and he would prefer to have a name identifying him with Fairfax County or the community in which he lives rather than adjacent Alexandria. On inquiry of the Post Office Department, I was advised that patrons who live in Jefferson Manor, Belle View, and Franconia who are served by the Alexandria Post Office, may use the local designation with the appropriate ZIP code in their addresses. The Postmaster General's office further advised that new branches will probably be called Englewood and Lincolnia and that residents of these areas can thereafter also use the local names if they choose to do so. According to the Post Office Department, approximately 43,000 persons now have the prerogative of using the name of the branch instead of Alexandria in the mailing address and when the branches at Englewood and Lincolnia are established an additional 33,000 persons will not need to use Alexandria in their mailing addresses.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE TRAVEL ALLOWANCES

The House by vote of 292 to 62 approved and sent to the Senate a bill to raise the maximum travel allowance of Federal employees from \$16 to \$20 per day. This maximum per diem for employees travelling on official business recognizes the increase in the cost of food and lodging.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

You may be interested in my tentative evening schedule for the next 30 days:

May 9: Dale City Civic Association, Prince William County.

May 10: Vienna International Ball, Fairfax County.

May 11: Reception, Loudoun County.

May 13: Jaycees, Westmoreland County.

May 14: Virginia Society of C.P.A.'s, Fairfax County.

May 18: Congressman Bill Wampler Dinner, Scott County.

May 20: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Fairfax County.

May 21: Area Citizens Associations, Lee District, Fairfax County.

May 22: National Cannery Association, Washington.

May 22: National Oil Jobbers Council, Washington.

May 24: Dale Carnegie Leadership School, Fairfax County.

May 25: Callao Day Celebration, Northumberland County.

May 26: Ebenezer Methodist Church, Richmond County.

May 30: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of Revolution, Alexandria.

June 4: Charles City High School Commencement, Charles City County.

June 5: Northumberland High School Commencement, Northumberland County.

June 6: Common Carriers Conference, Washington.

June 7: Tappahannock High School Commencement, Essex County.

June 8: Marriott High School Commencement, King and Queen County.

POOR PEOPLE'S MARCH

Many constituents have expressed concern regarding the proposed March on Washington this month. Certainly I share this concern and have urged that the President go on nationwide television and advise the people of the country what action will be taken to avoid the possibility of unprecedented disorder. The responsibility of administration and enforcement of our laws rests with the Executive Branch of government.

FREDERICKSBURG OFFICE

In view of the possibility of future disorders in the capital, you should know that we have a District Office in the Fredericksburg Post Office which will be utilized in the event any disturbance makes it impracticable